Pastel

Network Working Group
Request for Comments #173
NIC 6795

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4 June 1971

Categories: D.4, D.7
Obsoletes: None
Updates: None

Network Data Management Committee Meeting Announcement

The data management discussions at the recent NWG meeting resulted in the formation of a Network Data Management Committee to be chaired by Doug McKay, IBM. The purpose of the committee, as stated in RFC 146, is:

(a) to classify the issues involved and to propose various approaches;

(b) to integrate the hitherto independent network activities that address problems in the area of data sharing; and

(c) to set up and coordinate appropriate experiments to test the services developed and to evaluate alternative approaches.

An informal meeting was held Wednesday morning, 19 May to establish an approach for achieving the above objectives. The attendees were:

Peggy Karp	MITRE
Doug McKay	IBM
Tom O'Sullivan	Raytheon
Ari Ollikainin	UCLA
Dr. Larry Roberts	ARPA
Dick Winter	CCA

Due to an overlap with a file transfer committee meeting, membership of the data management committee was not established.

A decision was made to hold a data management meeting at CCA in Cambridge prior to the next general NWG meeting. The structure and

format of the meeting will be similar to that of the network graphics meeting (RFC 87); that is, the price of admission for an organization is a working paper on one or more of the areas chosen for discussion, accompanied by an oral presentation.

The meeting will provide an opportunity for varying viewpoints on network data sharing to be expressed. The essential issues will be educed, thus fulfilling the committee's objective (a). Comprehensive plans for attaining objectives (b) and (c) can then be established. We expect that responsibilities for carrying out objectives (b) and (c) will be assumed by interested committee members.

One of the original objectives of the meeting was to elicit comments on the data language for the data computer, following a presentation of design specifications by CCA. Due to a change in scheduling at CCA, they will discuss the facilities to be provided by the data computer rather than the language itself. Therefore meeting participants will have an opportunity to provide input to the language design which will be specifically directed at provision of the facilities.

Some suggested topics for position papers are:

(a) philosophical discussions on computer network data sharing;

(b) syntactic and semantic considerations for data description and access languages;

(c) approaches for the integration of data handling services already available;

(d) experimentation methodology for evaluating alternative data sharing techniques;

(e) information content and structure of a network data directory; and

(f) operational or control protocol.

Any or all of the above topics can be addressed in a single paper. Other ideas for position paper topics can be gleaned from RFC #s 144

and 146. Many of the comments made at the data management session, 18 May, at the NWG meeting (RFC 164, pp. 26-29) can be expanded and expounded upon.

Position papers should be submitted to Doug McKay by 16 July (received no later than 19 July). A meeting agenda, copies of all submitted papers, and a background bibliography will be distributed to all participants by 23 July. The meeting will be held at CCA, 565 Technology Square, Cambridge, Mass. from 2 August until 4 August. All participants should contact Marty Ginsberg, CCA (617-491-3670) by 16 July for hotel reservations.